Rajiv Gandhi National Child Service Centre

†855. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are introducing Rajiv Gandhi National Child Service Centre to look after the children of working and sick women;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when these child centres would be opened alongwith details of the States where these centres would be opened and the number thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has revised the Creche Scheme and re-launched it as Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme for the Children of Working Mothers.

(b) and (c) The Scheme provides financial assistance of Rs. 10,000 per creche at the start for infrastructure and Rs. 42,384 per creche per annum for recurring expenditure. Each creche would provide day care services, supplementary nutrition and health care for 25 children. The Scheme envisages setting up of 14719 new creches by the end of Tenth Plan across the country giving priority to uncovered districts.

Infanticide of Girl Child

856. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN : Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a new survey published in London in the first half of January, 2006 by Lancet magazine stating *inter-alia* that 5 million baby girls have been murdered in the country every year since 1994; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) As per information furnished by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, a study on Low male-to-female sex ratio of children born in India, national survey of 1:1 million households was conducted by Lancet. The

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

interpretation of the study states that based on conservative assumptions, pre-natal sex determination practice accounts for about 0.5 million missing female births yearly.

(b) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has undertaken training of trainers from State Judicial Academies to train lower judiciary and public prosecutors with the objective to sensitize the judiciary on the issue. National Inspection and Monitoring Committee (NIMC) having representatives of Department of Women & Child Development, National Commission for Women, Indian Council for Medical Research as members, undertakes periodical visits to the districts with low child sex ratio (0-6 years) to oversee the implementation of the Act at ground level and monitors the prosecutions launched against unregistered bodies and bodies violating provisions of the Act/Rules and directions of the Supreme Court of India in the matter. The National Support and Monitoring Cell has been constituted as a mechanism to help Appropriate Authorities in apprehending actual wrong doer who are committing female foeticide/abetting female foeticide.

It is, nevertheless, recognized that mere legislation is not enough to deal with this problem that has roots in social behaviour and prejudices. A number of activities to create awareness on the issue are being undertaken. The initiatives include meeting with the organizations working against sex selection, involvement of the medical professionals, religious leaders to spread the message, requesting police training academies and schools to include the issues in curriculum of their training, telecasting of PNDT spots on private satellite channels and Doordarshan, and involvement of elected representatives etc. A 'Save the girl Child' Campaign with a view to lesson son preference by highlighting achievements of young girls has been launched. District Magistrates have also been requested to regularly review the implementation of the PC&PNDT Act alongwith other programmes in their district.

Complaints of sexual harassment

†857. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA : Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaint from women employees with regard to sexual harassment against Government officials;

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